



San Antonio Police Department

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News Release

Officer Involved Shooting

On July 18th, 2002 at approximately 11:00 pm, Officer James Caviness, a 6-year veteran with the San Antonio Police Department, was working as a member of the SAPD DWI Task Force. Officer Caviness was traveling E/B on IH 10W with a DWI prisoner when he saw a small Red Chevrolet truck pass him at an extremely high rate of speed. Officer Caviness estimated the truck's speed as being over 100 mph. Officer Caviness radioed for assistance as the Red truck traveled S/B onto IH 35S from IH 10W. The suspect truck continued to drive erratically as it continued S/B forcing several other cars to swerve in order to avoid collisions.

The suspect truck exited at Alamo St. at which time the driver struck another car, which was at the intersection of S. Alamo and IH 35S. After striking that car, the suspect vehicle fled the scene N/B on S. Frio St. at which time Officer Caviness felt he needed to take immediate action in order to prevent injuries to other citizens. Officer Caviness activated his emergency lights and attempted to initiate a traffic stop on the suspect vehicle close to the intersection of Vera Cruz and S. Frio. The suspect vehicle stopped momentarily, but then continued several more yards before stopping again.

After the suspect stopped his truck, he suddenly exited and was armed with a baseball bat. Officer Caviness was able to exit his patrol car and point his service weapon at the suspect, while at the same time ordering the suspect to drop the bat. Officer Caviness reports that on several occasions the suspect yelled for the officer to shoot him. Officer Caviness retreated several yards as the suspect started a rapid approach towards the officer. Officer Caviness reports that he felt his life was in danger and fired two shots at the suspect. The suspect was subsequently shot twice and transported to Brook Army Medical Center in critical condition. Neither officer Caviness, nor his initial prisoner was injured in the incident.

The San Antonio Police Department Shooting Team is investigating the shooting while Officer Caviness is placed on Administrative Duty, which is standard in all officer involved shootings. The identity of the suspect is being withheld until formal charges are filed by the San Antonio Police Department.

For Immediate Release